

8 December 1954

NBC BRIEFING

### SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito is today in Red Sea on way to meet another "in-betweener" Nehru of India. His visit will last from 3rd-December into the new year.

Invitation given by Mme. Pandit during her visit Yugo in June, announced by Yugo 15 September. Indian and Yugo

press comment rapturous, stressing common interests, although Yugo press denies intention forming "third force."

Will go on to Burma, but not to China.

B. Trip to East is Tito's first--previously visited England (March 1953); Turkey, Greece (spring 1954).

I. Tito's visit comes in midst intensified period Soviet wooing Yugo.

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Recent Soviet gestures:

16 Sep - Moscow starts quoting Yugo press, leaders.

1 Oct - Agreement reopen trade.

4 Oct - Warsaw pulls all anti-Tito books from book stores--Soviet attache personally repurchases such books in Paris.

13 Oct - Chinese Communist embassies invite Yugo diplomats to national day parties.

16-20 Oct - On tenth anniversary Belgrade liberation, plugs role of Yugoslav partisans in World War II.

6 Nov - Soviet Politburo member Saburov, in major speech, stresses improved relations with Yugo, and pledges continued efforts--

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24 Nov - Malenkov, Khrushchev

and Bulganin raise a toast

"Comrade Tito and the Yugoslav

Communist Party" at Yugoslav

embassy Republic Day of the

1. This is first direct  
expression of "approval"  
ward the Yugo "heretics"  
since split in '48.

2. Attendance of Soviet delegation  
in itself, was an extraordinary  
event: They stayed at  
party over an hour, so  
to Yugo Ambassador, his  
social duties inter-

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28-29 Nov - Yugo anniversary given

extraordinary attention through-  
out Orbit.

1. In Poland, leading figures--

including Rokossowski and

Ochab--actually request in-

vitations to attend party

given by Yugo charge, who had

only invited officials of

his own rank.

2. In Hungary, Rumania and

Bulgaria, premiers unexpect-

edly attend parties.

III. Yugos have taken increasing steps to counter-  
balance impressions created by Soviet  
campaign.

A. Tito says he will not "go back to  
Moscow," calls such talk "arrant non-  
sense."

B. Also says will not let improved Yugo-  
Soviet relations affect Balkan Pact  
cooperation.

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Likevise, won't allow cut in Yugo defense budget.

D. Yugos refused to attend Moscow security conference, said it was a propaganda gesture.

E. No signs that Yugo changing basic trade orientation to West, or reliance on Western economic aid.

F.

17. Question of Tito's personal experiences with USSR gives interesting side-light to present "wooing." Review of history (warning: much of it written after '48 break) shows:

A. A Hapsburg POW, Tito spent 1915-20 in Russia--fought on Bolshevik side, married, returned to Balkans.

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He never visited Moscow five times between '34-'39 on Cominform or Yugo-Commie business but never met any high-level Soviet leaders, felt Yugo Commies were distrusted.

Up to '44, thoroughly embittered by lack of Soviet support for partisans, opposition to Yugo provisional government.

D. First met Stalin on sixth Moscow trip Sept '44.

For the first half year following break in June 1948, Tito unwilling to blame Stalin himself, who he assumed was "misinformed" by those around him.

From propaganda, USSR has real interest in reversing Yugo trend toward closer ties with West (viz: Balkan Pact). Probable Soviet aim is bring Yugoslavia back to neutral

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